

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 4.3

TRANSTRACHEAL OXYGEN THERAPY

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I. PROCEDURE CODE

31730

II. DESCRIPTION

An alternative method of delivery oxygen to patients requiring oxygen therapy for prolonged periods. This method of oxygen delivery involves the creation of a transtracheal cutaneous fistula and oxygen is delivered directly to the lungs via a transtracheal catheter.

III. POLICY

Transtracheal oxygen therapy is a covered benefit for patients with long-term oxygen requirements such as chronic obstructive lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung diseases and other causes of hypoxemia. Benefits include services and supplies related to the surgical creation of the transtracheal cutaneous fistula, the transtracheal catheters, and for the oxygen equipment and supplies (refer to [Chapter 7, Section 8.1](#) for guidelines on oxygen).

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Some providers are also billing separately for patient education which is not a covered benefit.

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